

1-9-97 McFadden expected to replace Pica as Senate delegation chief

Ex-councilman to be voice for city's legislative agenda

By IVAN PENN
SUN STAFF

Sen. Nathaniel J. McFadden is expected to be elected next week to head the Baltimore City Senate delegation, a move that would make him a spokesman for the city on legislative issues.

McFadden, 50, who became a member of the Senate in 1995, would succeed former Sen. John A. Pica Jr., who was the delegation's chairman until he resigned from the Senate on Jan. 1. Pica now is a lobbyist in Annapolis for Baltimore City.

Sen. Ralph M. Hughes, the delegation's vice chairman, had considered running for the position but changed his mind after it became clear that McFadden had

the votes to win.

As chairman, McFadden will be expected to be a prominent voice for the city's agenda in Annapolis. Topping that list is the city's effort to gain \$254 million in new state education aid over the next five years.

"There are some very important issues this session; very serious questions about education, welfare reform, Medicaid," he said.

McFadden said he is looking forward to becoming chairman in only his third year in Annapolis. "It's really an honor as a young senator, in terms of the experience of this delegation, to be elected chairman," McFadden said. "It's really humbling."

McFadden, a former Baltimore City Council member, represents an East Baltimore district. A Philadelphia native, he graduated from Morgan State College in 1968 and received his master's degree there in 1972.